



# Hardy Fern Foundation Quarterly

Summer 2006

## THE HARDY FERN FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 3797

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Web site: [www.hardyferns.org](http://www.hardyferns.org)

**The Hardy Fern Foundation** was founded in 1989 to establish a comprehensive collection of the world's hardy ferns for display, testing, evaluation, public education and introduction to the gardening and horticultural community. Many rare and unusual species, hybrids and varieties are being propagated from spores and tested in selected environments for their different degrees of hardiness and ornamental garden value.

The primary fern display and test garden is located at, and in conjunction with, The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden at the Weyerhaeuser Corporate Headquarters, in Federal Way, Washington.

Satellite fern gardens are at the Stephen Austin Arboretum, Nacogdoches, Texas, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham, Alabama, California State University at Sacramento, Sacramento, California, Coastal Maine Botanical Garden, Boothbay, Maine, Dallas Arboretum, Dallas, Texas, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Colorado, Georgeson Botanical Garden, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska, Harry P. Leu Garden, Orlando, Florida, Inniswood Metro Gardens, Columbus, Ohio, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York, and Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco, California.

The fern display gardens are at Bainbridge Island Library, Bainbridge Island, WA, Lakewold, Tacoma, Washington, Les Jardins de Metis, Quebec, Canada, Rotary Gardens, Janesville, WI, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado, and Whitehall Historic Home and Garden, Louisville, KY.

Hardy Fern Foundation members participate in a spore exchange, receive a quarterly newsletter and have first access to ferns as they are ready for distribution.

*Cover Design by Willanna Bradner*

**HARDY FERN FOUNDATION QUARTERLY**

THE HARDY FERN FOUNDATION  
**QUARTERLY**

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**The Spore Exchange Needs You!**

Please send your spores to our Spore Exchange Director:

Katie Burki  
501 S. 54th St.  
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## Summer 2006 President's Message

Welcome to the summer issue of the HFF Quarterly. At the Fern Fest, our annual membership meeting, the presidency was passed from the capable hands of John van den Meerendonk to me. I thank John for all his hard work over the past three years as president. Under his leadership we have seen the organization move forward in many positive ways. John was a driving force in the creation and installation of a highly successful fern display at the Washington Park Arboretum in Seattle. He has also set the stage for a thorough revision of the HFF website, a new growing structure for our nursery, and the beginnings of a stumpery at our main display garden at the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden. His enthusiasm has been an inspiration for all on the board and I congratulate him on a job well done. I look forward to my continued work with John over the next three years.

The Fern Fest was a great success. Many good ferns were sold and we enjoyed a great lecture by noted fern expert Robbin Moran. Fortunately, he was able to spend a few days in Seattle before leaving to tour some great gardens and see some ferns in the wild. Robbin's lecture was both entertaining and informative and we will not soon forget his creating a cloud of flames by igniting the spores of *Lycopodium*!

We have three new board members added at the annual meeting Barbara Carman, Pat Riehl, and Diane Thompson. Barbara is a long time member of the HFF and has served on the board in the past. She has been very active in the gardening community around Puget Sound. She has been involved with the Tacoma Garden Club, Lakewold Gardens, the Northwest Horticulture Society and much more. Her long service to the area will be a valuable addition for us. Pat Riehl is an avid plant enthusiast and an extremely capable member of the Seattle gardening community. Pat has served as president of the Northwest Horticulture Society and is a very active supporter of the Elisabeth C. Miller Library, a Seattle based horticultural library. Pat and her husband recently purchased new property with much more land to house her ever growing plant collection. Diane Thompson came to us from the Rhododendron Species Foundation. Diane serves on the executive committee on the board of the RSF and has served as President of the Seattle Rhododendron Society. She tends a beautiful and diverse garden in Bothell, Washington. Her commitment and organizational skills are exceptional as well as her enthusiasm for ferns and rhododendrons. I am looking forward to working with Barbara, Pat and Diane in the future as well as all of my friends on the HFF board.

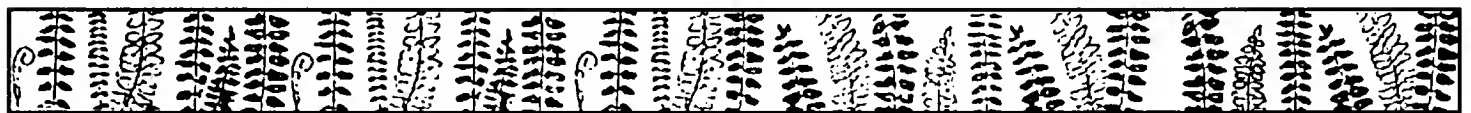
By the time this arrives to you I will have just returned from Germany on a jointly sponsored trip by the British Pteridological Society and the Hardy Fern Founda-

tion. This will be an exciting trip visiting some of the best private collections in Europe. I am pleased that three board members will be joining me on this trip, Sue Olsen from Bellevue, Washington and Pat Riehl from Seattle, Washington along with a member at large, Naud Burnett from Dallas, Texas. I give many thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Dr. Peters for arranging this wonderful trip. Watch for a detailed report of our adventures in an upcoming Quarterly.

The last news to note is the successful growth of spore given to the HFF from recent trips to Chile and Costa Rica. A few young plants have grown from the Chilean collections and we hope to confirm the identities of a few individuals. I hope to get to a more thorough write up of the Chile expedition in the near future. Spore collected in the high elevations in Costa Rica have started to show some green on the growing media. We hope they will continue to grow well. Best wishes for the summer and may there be a good rain just when you need it.

*All the best,*

*Richie Steffen*



## New Members

Suzanne Bagshaw & Marvin Anderson

Pamela Burton

Lynn and Hank Helm

Carolyn Jones

Jo Laskowski

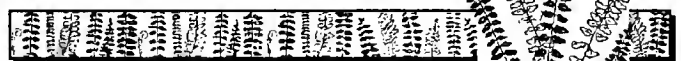
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### THE HARDY FERN FOUNDATION QUARTERLY



*The Hardy Fern Foundation Quarterly* is published quarterly by The Hardy Fern Foundation, P.O. Box 3797 Federal Way, WA 98036-3797

Articles, photos, fern and gardening questions, letters to the editor, and other contributions are welcomed!

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# A Hardy Rabbit's-foot Fern

Dr. Dan Jones

*From Frond Notes, Birmingham Fern Society – September 2005*

Some of the most attractive indoor ferns are the Rabbit's-foot and its relatives, such as Squirrel's-foot and Hare's-foot. They are members of the genus *Davallia*, a name chosen to commemorate Swiss plant collector, Edmond Davall (1763-1798). Davalliods are frequently displayed in hanging baskets in greenhouses and are valued for their triangular, shiny, finely divided leaves which are nicely complemented by intriguing thick rhizomes covered with prominent woolly scales. The catchy popular names associated with these ferns are derived from the "furry" appearance of the rhizomes. Rhizomes (horizontal stems) of most ferns are hidden underground, but the furry feet of davallias are generally displayed prominently. Indeed, they enhance the attractiveness and interest in davalliods when they creep over the surfaces of containers in conservatories or crawl over rocks in warm gardens.

The long-standing appreciation of davalliods is evinced in the first record (1462) in Japanese history of the cultivation of ferns in pots. *Davallia mariesii* was reportedly planted in small trays and presented as a gift to a general ("Ferns in the Japanese Culture" by Kenichi Watanabe; translated by Takeko Hayashi in "Fiddlehead Forum". 31, 4, 2004).

Forty years ago, the deciduous *D. mariesii* var. *mariesii* was imported from Japan in the dormant leafless condition. It was known as the Japanese ball fern because entrepreneurs enhanced the fern's appeal and made it a novelty by tying its furry rhizomes into a variety of figures and shapes including balls. The configured rhizomes were hung in gardens and entry ways, and when the fronds emerged, the figure formed by the tied rhizomes would delight as it "came to life".

Although the temperature tolerances of davallias are not well known, most are frost tender. Two of the hardiest are *D. mariesii* var. *mariesii* (Japanese ball fern) and *D. mariesii* var. *stenolepis* (Squirrel's-foot fern; often sold as *D. trichomanoides* in commercial trade), but even they can generally tolerate only light freezes. Tony Avent (Proprietor of Plant Delights Nursery, Inc., Raleigh, NC) has recently introduced a more cold-hardy selection of *Davallia mariesii* with the cultivar name of 'Korea Rocks' and a common name of Hardy rabbit's-foot fern. He reports it was collected at the base of Korea's Wolchusan Mountain at 1,000' elevation, and that it has proven to be completely winter-hardy in the warmer parts of Zone 7 which would include Birmingham (Zone 7b). He notes that "looking just like the hanging basket plant, the thick 'hairy' rabbit's foot rhizomes creep very slowly, while giving rise in spring to 6" tall lacy green fronds" (2005 Fall Sales Catalog, Plant Delights Nursery, Inc.).

Convinced that it might be beneficial to have a "lucky rabbit's foot" in the Glade, three specimens of *D. mariesii* 'Korean Rocks' have been ordered for planting this fall. If they prove to be hardy, they could be considered for planting in the large display pots in the Glade.

Undoubtedly many of you remember a rabbit's foot was a common lucky charm in the 1960's. The rabbit's foot is one of humanity's oldest superstitious symbols, having been

used since before 600 BC. One explanation is that because hares and rabbits are prolific breeders, they are seen as symbols of fertility, and thought to provide good luck, good crops, many children and prosperity.

Will the Rabbit's-foot fern be lucky enough to survive our winter? We hope so!

(Addenda, June 22, 2006.... "All three *Davallia mariesii* 'Korean Rocks' planted last fall [October] did survive the winter but it was a relatively mild one. Although it is currently unusually hot and dry for this time of year in Birmingham, the plants show slow, but steady progress towards becoming more established in their lightly irrigated site in the garden." Dan Jones)

## ***Cheilanthes eatonii***

### **Eaton's lip fern**

*James R. Horrocks*

*Salt Lake City*

The genus *Cheilanthes* is from the Greek for marginal flowers, referring to the lip-like aspect of the strips of reflexed indusoid tissue. This genus comprises some 125 species, most occurring in dry places world-wide. The genus is represented in Europe, Africa, the Himalayas, China, Japan, and even down under in New Zealand and Australia. In the Americas they are widely distributed from North America to Peru. The species name is after Daniel C. Eaton, a nineteenth century American pteridologist who studied the genus *Cheilanthes*.

Eaton's lip fern is an interesting little fern that frequents rocky areas in the southern United States, northern Mexico, and Costa Rica. In the southern states, it is found in Virginia, western Oklahoma, southern Colorado to central Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and more rarely in southeastern Utah. This species is epipetric in rock crevices of either limestone or igneous rocks and terrestrial among boulders and on talus slopes. Like most cheilanthes, it seems suited to high light conditions in dryish sandy soils.

*C. eatonii* somewhat resembles *C. tomentosa* and hybridizes with *C. villosa* in Texas and New Mexico. Many cheilanthes resemble each other and care must be taken in proper identification.

**Description:** The rhizome is short-creeping and often branching with narrowly lanceolate scales. The scales are bicolorous, being pale brown with a dark reddish-brown central stripe. The stipes are clustered or tufted and are reddish-brown to purplish-black in color, bearing narrow lanceolate scales, linear hair-like scales, and some hairs. The stipes are up

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# Scientific Insights

by E. Charles Nelson

Outwell, Norfolk, UK

*Excerpts from The Heather News Quarterly, Volume 29, Number 2, Issue 114, Spring 2006.*

“How do you tell if a plant is native or not – an alien, an introduction, an adventive, a naturalized plant? One of the best ways is by looking for signs in the record of vegetation, and one of the finest sources of such records is peat, an abundant natural product throughout the temperate parts of the Northern Hemisphere....Undisturbed peat is like a book; layer upon layer, “page” upon “page,” it records with infallible accuracy the plants (and sometimes the animals) that inhabited that particular place when each layer was formed. The pages/layers can be read like a story, using either the remnants of stems, leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds, or (more usually) pollen grains to identify the plants that grew there. It is possible by careful examination under microscopes to identify pollen grains to individual species. Thanks to peat, we know a lot about vegetation history for many places. To show how much peat can reveal about plants, not just heathers, a paper published recently about *Selaginella* on some of the most remote islands in the world deserves attention.”

“Recent studies in the Azores, first inhabited by humans in the fifteenth century AD, show that a moss-like plant called *Selaginella kraussiana* (a relative of the ferns), often considered an alien that was introduced after human settlement, is really an ancient denizen. *Selaginella* spores (like pollen grains capable of preservation in peat) occur deep down in the “pristine” layers far below those that record human activity. The peat record from the island of Flores, the most westerly of the Azorean archipelago, extends back around 2,400 years, and spores of *Selaginella* were found throughout the core.”\*

\*van Leeuwen, J.F.N. *et alii*, 2005. Native or introduced? Fossil pollen and spores may say. An example from the Azores Islands. *Neobiota* 6 (*Biological invasions – from ecology to control*): 27-34.

Your editor thanks Joyce Descloux for submitting the article, as well as author E. Charles Nelson and Joyce Prothero (editor of the HNQ) for permission to publish.



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		Seattle Parks - Citywide Hort.				
Stan and Sharon Johnson			1600 S. Dakota ST	Seattle	WA	98108
Daniel & Karen			9019 34th St. E	Edgewood	WA	98371
		Jones Botanical Gardens	Birmingham			
Daniel D. & Karen R. Jones			2612 Lane Park Rd.	Birmingham	AL	35223
Frankye Jones			Birmingham	AL		35244-2260 Ms.
Carolyn	Jones		19340 21st Ave NW	Shoreline	WA	98177
Bruce	Jordan		1550 NW 195th ST #111	Shoreline	WA	98177
Pamela	Jordan		11911 Jeffrey Road	Irvine	CA	92720
Heidi	Kaster		120 Tsataga Ct.	Brevard	NC	28712
Tom	Keepin		34881 Hansville Rd	Kingston	WA	98346
Panayoti	Kelaidis		4513 Randwick Dr.	Huston	TX	77092
		Denver Botanic Garden				
Bill	Kelley		1005 York Street	Denver	CO	80206-3799
Patrick & Marilyn Kennar			2724 Varnell Road	Cleveland	TN	37311
Daryl Mac	Kenyon		9849 N.E. 21st	Bellevue	WA	98004
Alan	Kettler		5215 118th Ave. Ct. E	Edgewood	WA	98372
Bill	Kloster		6923 Duke Dr.	Alexandria	VA	22307
Dennis	Kuntz		7220 S.W. Hunt Club Lane	Portland	OR	97223
Jeffrey	La Course		1507 Cherry Lane	Uniontown	OH	44685
Charles D	Lamade		622 Town Road	West Chicago	IL	60185-2698
			1734 Ravine Road	Williamsport	PA	17701

Edward & Donna Lambert		523 Rivermont Ct.	Athens	GA	30606
Stephen Lamphear		12011 18th AVE SW	Burien	WA	98146
Richard and Karen Lang		719 15th Ave E	Seattle	WA	98112
Ben Langlinais		1230 Guillot Road	Youngsville	LA	70592
Woody Lanier		P.O. Box 3508	Montgomery	AL	36109
Jo Laskowski		12244 16th AVE S	Seattle	WA	98168-2273
Bill Lavalley		31101 Ortega Highway	San Capistrano	CA	92675
Barry Layman		73 Greenhouse Road	Trenton	SC	29847
	Leach Botanical				
	Garden Library	6704 S.E. 122nd Ave.	Portland	OR	97236
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	Design Group Inc.	P.O.Box 1241	Birmingham	MI	48012-1241
Rob Leitner	Leitner's Hort.				
	Service	7009 Linden Ave N	Seattle	WA	98103
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Ann LeVasseur		509 N 74th ST	Seattle	WA	98103
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Wilfried Limberger		Siedlungsstrasse 13	4100 Ottensheim	Austria	
Sara Little		P.O. Box 10033	Huntsville	AL	35801
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Eric Lundberg		7092 Behler Road	New Tripole	PA	18066
Ginny Lusk		131 Auburn Road	Indian Springs	AL	35124
David Lyons		100 Jenny Cliff	Manchester	CT	06040
Leon Macha	Greenleaf Nursery	Highway 71 South	El Campo	TX	77437
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Rob Frey & Kristi Mandt		1115 East Denny Way	Seattle	WA	98122
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Gil Martin		700 Arbor La.,			
		Victoria Gardens	Kennett Square	PA	19348
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Peggy McGill		2437 Old Briar Trail	Birmingham	AL	35226-1526
Dave McKenzie		P.O. Box 533	Spring Lake	MI	49456
Jane McKinney	Coastal Maine				
	Botanical Garden	PO Box 234	Boothbay	ME	04537
Timothy McNitt		1340 Welling Road	Bellingham	WA	98226
Donna Medica		16120 NW Old Pumpkin			
		Ridge Rd	North Plains	OR	97133
John Mello		441 W. Redwood Dr.	Coupeville	WA	98239-3600
Kirk Menshaw		651 VZ County Rd. 3728	Wills Point	TX	75169
Kurt Messick		39 N Central Ave	Campbell	CA	95008
Jerry Meyers		P.O. Box 88	Liberty	KS	67351
Francis Miller		265 New Darlington Rd.	Media	PA	19063-5607
Dorothy Miller		3301 Lake Shore Dr	Michigan City	IN	46360
Sue Mills		11660 Caves	Chesterland	OH	44026-1706
Peter Minnich		617 N Jefferson ST	Berne	IN	46711
Tom Moeller		102 Wonder World Dr., Ste 304	San Marcos	TX	78666-6070
Philip Molla		2248 Jackson Dr.	Arnold	MO	63010
James Montgomery		Ecology III, 804 Salem Blvd.	Berwick	PA	18603
Dennis S. Moran		P.O. Box # 2	McAfee	NJ	07428
Greg & Grace Morris		The Rowans, Houston Road	Kilmacolm, PA 134	NY Scotland,	
				U.K.	
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John and Lee Neff		5563 South Holly Street	Seattle	WA	98188-3450
Caryn E. Neumann		4758A Cressingham Court	Columbus	OH	43214
Nickolas Nickou MD		107 Sunset Hill Dr.	Branford	CT	06405

*Continued on page 72*

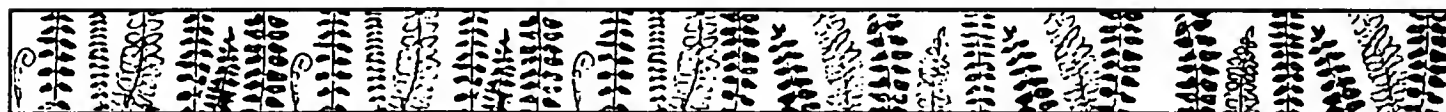
Dave Mel	Nizinski Noble NYBG Library	Mobjack Nurseries	4208 E River Rd 6294 Lariat Loop	Foster Bainbridge Is	VA 23056-2009 WA 98110
Mr. & Mrs Sean O'Connor	O'Connor	SERIALS & EXCHANGE	2900 Southern Blvd. 88 High Hill Road PO Box 96	Bronx Wallingford	NY 10458-5126 CT 06492
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Johnny	Patterson		Box 335	Seattle	WA 98103
Sekerka	Pavel	Prazska Botanicka, Zahrada	5800 Knotts Neck Road	Lolo	MT 59847
George	Pealer		Nadvorni 134	Suffolk	VA 23435
Maryann and Charles Pembr			15088 Smart-Cole Road		171 00 Praha 7- Troja CZ
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Duane	Petersen		17 Bradford Rd	Medina	WA 98039
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Gregory C.	Peterson		6934 SE 45th AVE	Wichita	KS 67206
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Elizabeth	Rodgers		702 N 65th ST	Seattle	WA 98102
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				Athens	GA 30606
				Dallas	TX 75253

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George	Sanko	GPC Botanical Garden	85 Radcliffe Terrace	Covington	GA	30016
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Richard	Saul		1115 West Nancy Creek Drive	Atlanta	GA	30139
Jack and Rose	Marie Schieber		1621 Chinquapin Rd.	Holland	PA	18966-1719
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John	Schmidt		372 Rose Hill Road	West Grove	PA	19390
Eric	Schmidt	Harry P. Leu Gardens	1920 N Forest AVE	Orlando	FL	32803
Jim	Scoggins		4588 Brothers Road	La Grange	NC	28551
John D	Scott		55 Hertzog School RD	Mertztown	PA	19539
Tom	Scroggins		3180 N. W. Hurleywood	Albany	OR	97321
Dan	Segal		323 Island Road	Columbus	NJ	08022
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James	Senko		10919 101st Ave S	Lakewood	WA	98498
Alan	Shapiro		7404 N. W. 126th Street	Gainesville	FL	32653
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Dianne	Smith		1700 Locust ST	Norristown	PA	19401
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Charles	Smoleny		P.O. Box 204	Goulds	FL	33170
Jim	Snyder		1295 Mt. Elbert Road NW	Riner	VA	24149
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Tim	Spencer		930 Angelus Way	Monterey	CA	93940-5605
Ken	Spikens		R.R. #1 3761 London Line	ON NON 1T0	Canada	
Chris	Spindel		3985 South Galloway Dr	Memphis	TN	38111-6841
Ruth	Sprute		4 Greaves Ave	Staten Island	NY	10308-2131
Terry	Stalcup		1 North Pack Square	Asheville	NC	28801
Carolyn K.	Stamm		525 S. Hempstead Rd.	Westerville	OH	43081
Carolyn	Stamm	Inniswood Metro Garden	940 S. Hempstead Rd.	Westerville	OH	43081
Stephanie	Steele		10768 Manitou Park Blvd.	Bainbridge Island	WA	98110
Richard A.	Steffen		1825 296th ST	Federal Way	WA	98003
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Ann	Stewart		10402 Brookmoor Dr.	Silver Spring	MD	20901
Lyle	Stokley		P.O. Box 821	Semmes	AL	36575
Barbara	Stolzenburg		7003 156th St SW	Edmonds	WA	98026
	Strybing Arboretum	Helen Crocker Russell Library	Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way	San Francisco	CA	94122
Tom	Stuart		P.O. Box 517	Croton Falls	NY	10519
Kevin	Sullivan		1655 East Semoran Blvd., Suite 24	Apopka	FL	32703
Nils	Sundquist	Sundquist Nursery	3809 NE Sawdust Hill RD	Poulsbo	WA	98370
Jeanie	Taylor		7725 Corliss AVE N	Seattle	WA	98103
Carl	Taylor		710 E Marshall	Oak Creek	WI	53154

*Continued on page 74*



Margaret	Taylor	10 Hillside Circle	Storrs	CT	06268-2407
Arlicene	Thissen	164 Nighbert AVE	Logan	WV	25601
Barry	Thomas	University of Wales Llanbadarn Fawr.	Aberystwyth, Ceredigion		
				SY233AL	Wales
Steve	Thomas	5027 Highway 147	Waverly	AL	36879
Julie	Thomas	10040 Perkins Hill Road	Chestertown	MD	21620
Diane	Thompson	23209 53rd Ave SE	Bothell	WA	98021-8015
George	Thurlow	P.O. Box 1046	Huntsville	AL	35807
Claudia	Tidball	28810 57th Pl. S.	Auburn	WA	98001
Shannon	Toal	9843 41st AVE SW	Seattle	WA	98136
Robert & Mary Ellen	Tonsing	2269 Ridge Rd.	Littleton	CO	80120
David	Traylor	7724 Hickory Rd.	Petersburg	VA	23803
Jimmy	Turner	Dallas Arboretum	Dallas	TX	75218
Peter	Van Berkum	4 James Road	Deerfield	NH	03037
Jack	Van De Wetering	1675 Edwards Ave.	Calverton	NY	11933
John	van den Meerendonk	16269 Reitan Rd.	Bainbridge Is.	WA	98110
James	Van Hoorn	4817 Millstream Road	Marengo	IL	60013
Joseph	Van Meulder	stationstraat 81a 3530 Houthalen			Belgium
Rob	Vanderdruk	P.O. Box 1218 Waterdown	ON L0R 2H0		Canada
Dr. Donald & Imelda	VanFleet	7121 Wareham Dr	Tampa	FL	33647-1130
Gretchen	VanLom	6528 6th Ave NW	Seattle	WA	98117
Agris	Veismanis	Apes 6-6 Aluksne	LV 4301, Latvia		
Herman	Vess	4350 VZ CR 1903	Edgewood	TX	75117
Alastair C.	Wardlaw	92 Drymen Road	Bearsden, Glasgow	G61 2SY	Scot. U.K.
Rick	Watson	12017 Glen Arm Road	Glen Arm	MD	21057
Grace	Weaver	John Henry			
		Company - GCC			
Pamela	Weil	Connecticut	Lansing	MI	48901
		Gardener			
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Barbara D.	Wetzel	95 Main Street, Box 641	Center Moriches	NY	11934
Don	Whiddon	20 Braeburn Lane	Barrington Hills	IL	60010-9619
Rod	White	P.O. Drawer 45	Semmes	AL	36575
Joyce	Wiechmann	5824 NE 75th ST #307D	Seattle	WA	98115
Susan	Williams	P.O. Box 1185	Sylacauga	AL	35150
		Stephen Austin			
		Arboretum			
Christian	Wingard	335 Co Road 523	Nacogdoches	TX	75964
Charles	Wolfram	P.O. Box 51882	New Orleans	LA	70151
Luellen	Wolsing-List	500 Pacific Ave Unit 710	Virginia Beach	VA	23451
Paige	Woodward	5005 McHugh	Independence	KY	41051
		Pacific Rim			
		Native Plants			
Glen B.	Youell	43359 Hillkeep Place	Chilliwack, B.C.	Canada	V29 6J7
Marcia	Young	3459 - 122nd Pl NE	Bellevue	WA	98005
		P.O. Box 39	Forest Hill	LA	71430



## Dear Members,

Hello! Hope this letter finds you and your ferns doing well. Following, you will find our fall 2006 Fern Distribution list. We have a good supply of most ferns listed but ordering early is always recommended. Ferns will be shipped via UPS on Monday, September 18th. Ferns are priced as listed and you will be billed at the time of shipping. ***Please don't send payment with your order.***

**UPS will not deliver to P.O. boxes so please be sure to give us a street address.**

Send your order **by September 11th** to:

Michelle Bundy, 16038 - 46<sup>th</sup> Ave S., Tukwila, WA 98188.

If you have any questions or would rather e-mail your order, you can also contact Michelle at thebundys5@comcast.net. Thank you for your support of the Hardy Fern Foundation!

### ***Athyrium otophorum* - Eared Lady Fern**

Zones 5-9, deciduous

This Japanese native is a great ornamental fern. It grows to be 1 ½ to 2' tall. A deciduous woodland species which prefers full to part shade and a rich loamy soil that is consistently moist but well drained. The new fronds are a soft sherbet green aging to a dusky grey-green. The stems or stipes are a deep burgundy color. In the spring the unfurling fronds are a dark maroon. Colorful fern for the edging of a bed or pathway. Foliage contrasts nicely with a dark green background. Does very well in pots. Foliage will decline if allowed to dry out too often. **\$6.00**

### ***Blechnum penna-marina* – Alpine Water Fern**

Zones 5-8, evergreen

Widely distributed across cooler latitudes in the Southern hemisphere. This low growing evergreen fern forms a beautiful groundcover, spreading moderately by creeping rhizomes. It forms a thick carpet and is great for suppressing weeds. Completely non-invasive. Very cold hardy, easy to grow, prefers a moist, well drained soil in part shade, but will tolerate sun, wind and frost. This fern does beautifully planted as an edging along a bed or pathway, beside a water feature or between rocks. If placed in a sunnier position be sure to mulch plants and provide plenty of moisture. New fronds are a pinkish-bronze color aging to a dark green. Can be easily propagated by division. **\$8.00**

### ***Cheilanthes fendleri* – Fendler's Lip Fern**

Zones 5-8, deciduous

This very hardy cheilanthes grows 6 – 12" tall and is tripinnate. It requires good drainage and protection from winter wet. This fern does very well in pots and will form nice, large colonies. Native to the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. **\$6.00**

### ***Dryopteris formosana***

Zones 6-9, evergreen

Native to Japan and Taiwan, this fern is completely evergreen for us here in Seattle. The new growth tends to be late to emerge in the spring and is a bright, almost lime green color. Mature size is 3' tall with a very upright habit. This lovely fern deserves to be used more often and we are excited to see it become more widely available. **\$6.00**

### ***Phyllitis scolopendrium* – Hart's Tongue Fern**

Zones 5-9, evergreen

This unique fern, with its lush green foliage and bold texture, is a must for any fern or woodland garden. Ultimately reaching about 2' tall, the Hart's tongue fern prefers part to full shade and a well drained soil which, to look its best, has been amended with lime. An acidic soil can be made more basic by placing sticks of chalk around the base of the plant or by incorporating concrete rubble, limestone chips or oyster shells around the plants. Root rot can be a problem with this species so be sure drainage is adequate. Once they are in the right spot they are very easy to grow and worth the extra effort. **\$6.00**

### ***Polystichum setiferum* 'Divisilobum'**

Zones 5-8, evergreen

'Divisilobum' grows to be approximately 2' tall and 2' wide. The soft, feathery foliage of this fern is very eye-catching and contrasts well with thicker textured ferns or companion plants. Prefers a partially shaded spot with a rich, well drained soil. Very easy to grow. **\$6.00**

# Whitehall Stumpery Update

*Ralph Archer*

*Louisville, KY*

An article (Summer 2003 HFF Quarterly) discussed the initial construction of a stumpery at Whitehall Historic Home in Louisville, KY. Since then, a significant expansion has resulted in additional experience and there have been several inquiries requesting more detailed descriptions of how to construct stump beds. For these reasons, a follow-up article was deemed in order.

## Stumpery Bed No. I

What ended up being a sizable stumpery bed started as a pile of logs on a sloping area on the north side of a large spruce tree. The area had been cleaned of Euonymous and covered with a layer of wood chips. It lay dormant for a while and then was used as a dump for wood from a tree removal. It was adjacent to the area we already had started to plant as a fern display bed.

We spent considerable time arranging and rearranging logs. Our objective was to create a pleasing pattern that did not look contrived but appeared as natural as possible. We brought in additional logs from other log piles on the grounds to add to the original logs including longer and smaller branches to edge the paths. After we had the logs placed, we brought in loads of top soil mixed half and half with composted wood chips and poured the soil mixture around the logs to create planting pockets. The soil depth was about half to two thirds up the logs and all pockets rested on wood chips over bare soil between logs laying on the chips. We finished adding soil before the end of December, left the bed to settle over the winter and started planting about the first week in April.



We were so inspired by the results when we started planting that we decided we just had to enlarge the bed. All of the construction details were the same so far as the placement of logs on chips and the half soil half wood chip mixture added to provide a planting medium between the wood. The major difference was in the plants.

*Stumperie05JuneTotal*

The picture (Stumperie05-JuneTotal) shows the bed two years after planting. The original bed had a mass planting of *Athyrium* 'Ghost' at the rear with *Dryopteris oreades* and *Brunnera* cultivars in front of the *Athyrium*. These ferns have started to mature as have all of the *Brunnera*. The new portion is planted with a variety of fern species and cultivars, as well as *Primula*, *Tiarella*, *Heuchera*, *Astilbe* and two *Cimicifuga americana*. The ferns are mainly a mix of *Athyrium* and *Dryopteris* cultivars such as *A. f-f* 'Frizelliae', 'Lady Victoriae', *A. niponicum* 'Applecourt', *D. affinis* 'Cristata Angustata', and *D. f-m* 'Barnesii'.

Two large oak logs were brought in to provide a backdrop as well as a barrier separating the fern garden from the lawn area.

### Main Display Bed

The main fern display bed went through a similar evolution. A large area of Euonymous was cleared and wood chips were spread to a depth of about one foot. The area was left dormant for three months prior to fall planting.

The initial plantings were mainly *Dryopteris* and *Athyrium* species and cultivars. A large log had been separated and three *D. x australis* were planted between the pieces. Several *Adiantum pedatum* were planted in the V in the lower center. Several shovelfuls of good topsoil were mixed into the chips from each planting hole and the mixture was used to fill around the ferns.



MainBed05July

The picture (MainBed05July) shows the main bed during the summer of 2005. The ferns to the center and left are mainly *Athyrium* species and the ferns to the top and right are mainly *Dryopteris*.

The large logs to the rear were from trees taken down during the winter of 2002 and placed to screen the main bed from the lawn. They were the inspiration for using the larger oak logs to screen the stump bed as described above.

Two spring applications, spaced two months apart, of a balanced slow release fertilizer were made during each of the first two years to both the main display bed as well as the stump bed. This was due to concern regarding nitrogen depletion due to the decay of the wood chips. Soil tests showed no additional applications were required for either last year or this year.

Continued on page 78



## Whitehall Stumpery Update (continued from pg. 77)



LogPlanters05June

### Stump Planters

A signature feature of the garden are the hollow log planters for *Polypodium vulgare* species and cultivars. The center holes go all the way through the log. They were filled with composted hard wood chips to the top and the *Polypodium* rhizomes were set level with the surface. The chips have settled over the two years so that the plants are now below the level of the log top surface. A variety of cultivars of *Phyllitis scolopendrium* are planted around the base of the planters. The picture (LogPlanters05June) shows the first group of log planters with *P. vulgare* species and cultivars. It was taken in early morning when parts of the bed have brief periods of sun. The tall plants to the upper left are of several different *Tricyrtis* cultivars.

A number of log planters have been planted with *Polypodium* species other than *P. vulgare*. The limited experience to date shows that *Polypodium* species other than *P. vulgare* have not been adaptable to planting in this manner in this area. We plan to continue to try various other species as the experience is considered somewhat inconclusive due to the limited number of plants tried.

### New Bed

In the winter of 2004-2005, we began cleaning a large area of *Euonymus* and other trash plants by digging them out with as much root structure as possible and covering the dug areas with about a foot of wood chips as had been our practice. Planting started in the fall of 2005. Photo Mvc-586f shows the area currently being planted. We placed a sizable number of logs, both horizontal and upright, in three general planting areas and planted ferns among the logs. To date the ferns planted are mainly Victorian cultivars of *Athyrium*

*filix-femina* and *Dryopteris* species along with some of the more colorful Asian members of these genera. A second stump area at the other end of the bed was planted in May, 2006 as well as areas edging the paths and in front of the logs at the end of the bed. We intend to continue to plant ferns this fall as well as additional woodland type plants. The vertical nature of many of the logs has caused this bed to be named "Stumphinge".

As time went by, we started to experiment with the clean up and planting process. We dug out Japanese honeysuckle along with the other weed type shrubs and trees and cleared out all the tree wood trash. We then put flattened cardboard boxes (the sort that small pots are shipped in for use by nurseries) on top of the heavy *Euonymus* ground cover in part of the area and covered the cardboard with a foot of wood chips. We used a foot of just plain woodchips to cover the *Euonymus* in the remaining area and plan to let the area sit until the spring of 2007 to see if this kills the *Euonymus* without having to remove as much as possible and also to determine if the cardboard is necessary.

We have changed our planting practice to digging down through the chips to the dirt and mixing the base soil in the chips for the planting medium. Our previous method was to bring in topsoil and then mix it into the chips before filling in around the plant. Thus far the ferns planted in base soil mixed into the chips are establishing well. It does not appear necessary to bring in topsoil for planting as had been our practice.

It is hoped that this will inspire some readers to build their own stumpery. It is not difficult and makes a wonderful backdrop for a garden in the shade.



Mvc-586f



## ***Cheilanthes eatonii***

### **Eaton's lip fern (continued from page 65)**

to one third the length of the blade. The sub-evergreen fronds are lanceolate-oblong and from 3 to 16 inches in length. The lower-most pair of pinnae are for the most part the same size as the pinnae above. The fronds taper to the apex. The pinnae are deltoid-ovate to ovate-oblong with pinnules that are oval or round and bead-like. The fronds are tripinnate to almost four times divided with scattered linear scales and hairs along the rachis. The pinnule margins are quite under rolled with a continuous narrow indusium. The sori are in groups and submarginal at the ends of thickened veins.

**Culture:** While Lellinger remarks that *C. eatonii* is not cultivated, Mickel mentions its ease of care as "moderate", and Hoshizaki maintains that it is relatively easy to grow in "moist-dry to dry, well drained garden soil with sand." Being easily grown from spore, as most cheilanthus are, this species could be experimented with in various exposures and soil types. Often, the most neglected specimens end up being the strongest growers. The author had an experience with *Pellaea atropurpurea* in which all of them died except for one that was "forgotten about". It still thrives where I least expected it to grow. Some ferns simply do not like to be pampered. *C. eatonii* must have a high light exposure and could not be expected to grow in a heavily shaded area. (*Ed. note....in the Pacific Northwest it needs protection from winter wet.*) For those who like to experiment with "xerics", Eaton's lip fern is certainly worth a try. It is hardy to Zone 6.

#### **References:**

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